



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
*P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800*

February 4, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 1, 2002 a new law went into effect that requires public (K-12) schools and licensed day care centers to:

- provide annual notification of their pest control policies and methods
- establish a system to notify parents, guardians, and employees of planned pesticide use
- post signs where pesticides have been applied

Since 2002, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Pesticide Management Division (PMD) has been providing extensive outreach and education efforts to schools on how to achieve compliance.

This letter is to inform you that beginning in February of 2004, WSDA will continue with these educational efforts. However, we will also be conducting routine inspections at schools, licensed day care centers, and at businesses that provide pest management services to these facilities.

WSDA also wants to remind you that RCW 43.05 provides you with an opportunity to request a technical assistance visit rather than an unannounced regulatory inspection.

The procedure for both is basically the same. A WSDA investigator will arrange to meet the most responsible person(s) for pesticide activities. The investigator will conduct a routine inspection to measure compliance with the new law, as well as, check compliance with other standard WSDA regulations such as those pertaining to pesticide storage and disposal. A checklist each inspector will use while conducting these inspections is available at:

<http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/ComplianceActivities.htm>

During the inspection, if minor deficiencies are identified the WSDA will provide a written document to the school or licensed day care center that identifies the deficiencies; how to best correct them, and a time frame to follow. If WSDA were to find egregious deficiencies (i.e., probable or actual endangerment to humans and/or the environment) the WSDA may take an action in the form of a civil penalty, license suspension, or both.

If you are interested in arranging a technical assistance visit please contact WSDA at 360-902-2040 or by e-mail at [compliance@agr.wa.gov](mailto:compliance@agr.wa.gov) before the end of March, 2004. The WSDA will conduct as many requested inspections as possible. However, depending upon the number of requested inspections and current workload of investigators, WSDA may have to limit the number of technical assistance visits it will conduct during the year.

If you have questions please contact any of the following individuals:

Cliff Weed  
Phone 360-902-2036  
e-mail [cweed@agr.wa.gov](mailto:cweed@agr.wa.gov)

Dan Suomi  
Phone 360-902-2044  
e-mail [dsuomi@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dsuomi@agr.wa.gov)

Dave Zamora  
Phone 509-663-9616  
e-mail [dzamora@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dzamora@agr.wa.gov).